

LB 814, the capital construction. We have other issues that call for capital expenditures in the body. And, as Senator Lynch alluded to, there are many of us that have some concerns over the process that the State of Nebraska is involved in when it comes to building things, building buildings, building whatever that might be. I find no fault with the Appropriations Committee and their recommendations on the surface but I would suggest to you that perhaps we have come to the place in government of the State of Nebraska when we need to perhaps take a look at the structuring of our appropriations process. It's no secret that the members of the Appropriations Committee have a tremendously burdensome job to accomplish within a very, very limited time span. I am going to support the advancement of 812E, not that I'm comfortable with it, but I think at this point in our history we have no choice. But I would suggest to you that with the size of the budget and the amount of demand that is out there for construction, not only from the university but from corrections, from the Department of Public Institutions, from all branches of state government, that perhaps it's time that we consider restructuring our committee structure, how we hear the bills, and perhaps rather than a Building and Maintenance Committee that looks at what should be taken care of, perhaps we need a capital construction committee to help in the process of appropriating the money, where we would have a little more time, the members of that committee, to look in more depth at the proposed construction projects. I know there would be problems in coordinating the expenditures of money and that sort of thing but perhaps we have come to that place in the road where we need to relieve the Appropriations Committee of part of the responsibility if we can find the system to do it. The bodies could be found, I suppose, by reducing the members of some of our other committees. But we have far too much uncertainty in how we're going to spend the money that we're entrusted to spend by the people of the State of Nebraska. I think we need a better system or look for a better system in the future. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, followed by Senator Abboud.

SENATOR WITHEM: The only thing I would like to say at this point, I guess, is a clarification of...Senator Hannibal and I occasionally use construction terms that the people don't understand, you know, just to clarify, Senator Hall has made some reference to being under contract. Senator Hannibal has